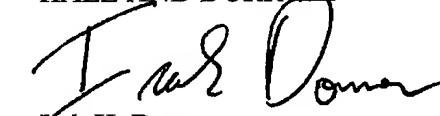


AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Amendment, or credit any overpayment to deposit account no. 08-0219. In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to deposit account no. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,
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IHD/sed

Appendix A
(Marked-up copy of amended claims; new claims)

40. (Amended) A computer implemented simulation and evaluation method for testing a user's problem solving abilities in response to a complex system [such as a patient having at least one health state], said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) accessing a profile for said user;
- (b) selecting a testing area to evaluate said user on at least one predetermined criterion responsive to said profile;
- (c) selecting epidemiological information including at least one of genetic information and environmental information of a patient responsive to said testing area;
- (d) generating a patient history responsive to said testing area and said epidemiological information including said at least one of genetic information and environmental information, wherein said patient history comprises a predetermined set of health states;
- (e) receiving at least one intervention input by the user, wherein said at least one intervention includes passive and active interventions; and
- (f) evaluating said user responsive to said at least one predetermined criteria and said at least one intervention.

41. (Amended) A computer implemented simulation and evaluation method for testing a user's problem solving abilities in response to a complex system, [such as a patient having at least one predetermined health state, such] said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) generating an initial patient history state, wherein said initial patient history state comprises a predetermined set of health states;
- (b) receiving at least one intervention input by said user, wherein said at least one intervention includes passive and active interventions;
- (c) evolving the initial patient history state to a predetermined subsequent patient history health state responsive to said at least one intervention; and
- (d) evaluating said user responsive to said at least one intervention.

44. (Amended) A computer implemented method for training a user regarding the operation of a complex system[, such as a patient having at least one predetermined health state, such], said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) generating an initial patient history state, wherein said initial patient history state comprises a predetermined set of health states; and

(b) iterating through a prescribed treatment protocol with said user, wherein said iterating step comprises evolving, through at least one intermediate health state, the initial patient history state forward in time to a predetermined subsequent patient history health state.

46. (Amended) A computer implemented simulation and evaluation method for testing a user's problem solving abilities in response to a complex system[, such as a group of patients, wherein each patient in said group has at least one health state, such] said method comprises the steps of:

(a) generating multiple instances of patients representing a clinical scenario, wherein each [of said patients have] instance of a patient has an initial patient history state comprising a predetermined set of health states;

(b) evolving at least one of each [of said patients'] instance of said patient's initial patient history state to a predetermined subsequent patient history health state;

(c) receiving at least one intervention input by said user, wherein said at least one intervention includes passive and active interventions; and

(d) evaluating said user responsive to said at least one intervention.

Please add the following new claims:

47. (New) A computer implemented method for evaluating a user's response to a simulated patient, said method comprising:

selecting subject matter on which to evaluate a user;

generating a first target health state of a patient, wherein said first target health state is determined by said subject matter;

generating a medical history for said patient, wherein generating said medical history comprises iterating from said first target health state backward in time through at least one precursor health state to an initial health state;

receiving at least one query including at least one of an intervention and a request for additional information regarding the patient from said user in response to said first target health state;

evolving said first target health state forward in time in response to said at least one query to a second target health state; and

evaluating said user based on said at least one query.

48. (New) A computer implemented method for evaluating a user's response to a simulated patient, said method comprising the steps of:

- accessing a user profile;
- selecting subject matter on which to evaluate said user, wherein said subject matter is determined by said user profile;
- generating a first target health state of a simulated patient, wherein said first target health state is determined by said user profile;
- generating a medical history for said simulated patient;
- presenting said simulated patient to said user;
- receiving at least one query including at least one of an intervention and a request for additional information regarding the patient from said user in response to said first target health state;
- evolving said first target health state forward in time in response to said at least one query to a second target health state; and
- evaluating said user based on said at least one query.

49. (New) A computer implemented method for evaluating the problem solving skills of a plurality of users comprising:

- selecting subject matter on which to evaluate a plurality of users;
- generating a first target health state of a patient, wherein said first target health state is determined by said subject matter;
- generating a medical history for said patient;
- presenting to each user of said plurality of users a copy of said patient, wherein said patient comprises said first target health state and said medical history;
- receiving at least one query including at least one of an intervention and a request for additional information regarding the patient from each user of said plurality of users in response to each user's copy of said patient;
- evolving said first target health state of each copy of said patient forward in time independent of other copies of said patient presented to other users in response to said at least one query from each said user to a second target health state; and
- evaluating said plurality of users based each user's said at least one query.

50. (New) A method for surveying physician treatment responses to patient care for establishing a standard for a minimum level of patient care, said method comprising:

selecting subject matter on which to collect responses from a user;

generating a first target health state of a patient, wherein said first target health state is determined by said subject matter;

generating a medical history for said patient, wherein generating said medical history comprises iterating from said first target health state backward in time through at least one precursor health state from the first target health state to an initial health state;

receiving at least one query including at least one of an intervention and a request for additional information regarding the patient from each user of said plurality of users in response to said first target health state;

evolving said first target health state forward in time in response to said at least one query to a second target health state;

determining a standard for the minimum level of patient care from at least one query from each user of a plurality of users.

51. (New) A computer implemented method for training a user on patient treatment practices through the use of patient simulation, said method comprising:

selecting subject matter on which to train the user;

generating a first target health state of a patient, wherein said first target health state is determined by said subject matter;

generating a medical history of said patient; and

iterating through at least one subsequent target health state in response to at least one query said patient to a final target health state, wherein said iterating comprises:

(a) prompting a user to enter at least one predetermined query;

(b) evolving said first target health state forward in time in response to said at least one predetermined query including at least one of an intervention and a request for additional information regarding the patient to a second target health state; and

(c) repeating (a) and (b) until treatment of said patient is completed.

52. (New) A computer simulated method for evaluating the problem solving skills of a user, said method comprising:

selecting subject matter on which to evaluate said user;

generating a first problem environment, wherein said first problem environment is determined by said subject matter;

generating a history of said first problem environment, wherein generating said first problem environment comprises iterating from said first situation backward in time through at least one precursor situation to an initial situation;

receiving at least one query including at least one of an intervention and a request for additional information from said user in response to said first problem environment;

evolving said first problem environment forward in time in response to said at least one query to a second problem environment; and

evaluating said user based on said at least one query.